

Application No.: 10/656,012
Amendment dated August 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of July 15, 2004

Remarks

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendments, and consideration of the application, as amended.

By this Amendment, the Applicant renumbered claims 1-20 to claims 21-40 to reflect the Patent Office's renumbering implied in the Office Action Summary. Each of the dependent claims was amended to correct antecedent basis due to the renumbering of the claims. No claims were narrowed by these amendments and no new matter was introduced. Claims 21-40 are now pending in this application.

The Applicant acknowledges the Patent Office's identification in the subject Office Action of the patently-distinct species shown in Figures 3B, 3C, 4B, 5B, 6A, 9, and 10 and the identification of the species recited in claim 1 (now claim 21) as generic.

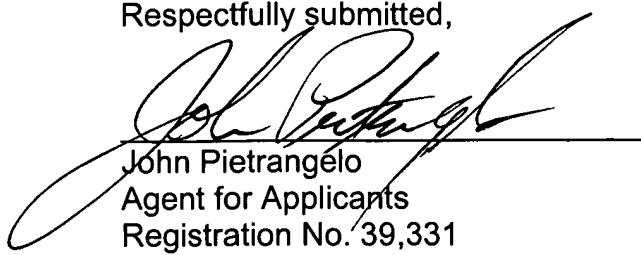
The Applicant elects the species of Figure 3C for prosecution at this time. The Applicant believes that claims 21-23, 27-30, and 33-37 read-on Figure 3C. The Applicant acknowledges that upon allowance of generic claim 21, the Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

The Applicant believes that this Amendment addresses the Election of Species Restriction of the subject Office Action and places the application in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits of the application is requested.

If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Applicant's undersigned Agent invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided.

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Respectfully submitted,



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August 9, 2004

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